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*The*  
JAPAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*for*  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE THROUGH  
RELIGION

MAY, 1931



EDITED  
BY  
THE JAPAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE WORLD CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE THROUGH RELIGION

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## Forword

**I**N 1925, the Directors of the Japan Religious Association considered the matter of convening an international religious conference in Japan. Their plan was eventually adopted at a general meeting of the Association, after it had been thoroughly studied by a special committee appointed for that purpose. However just at that time a report came from the United States of America that the Church Peace Union had a plan to convene an Universal Religious Peace Conference, and that it had already made public a definite programme. The Japan Religious Association, therefore, deemed it wise to change its plan, support the Church Peace Union and cooperate with it, postponing its own plan to a later date.

The Japan Religious Association, however, decided to hold a National Religious Conference to commemorate the Enthronement Ceremonies of the New Emperor, which were to take place in 1928. This National Religious Conference was held June 5—9, 1928 with great success, there being an attendance of 1500 men and women from the various religions in Japan.

I will not dwell here on the importance and significance of that Conference. As for the Universal Religious Peace Conference the First Preliminary Meeting was held in Geneva in September, 1928. The conference consisted of 191 men and women chosen from the various religions of the world. Prof. T. Tomoeda, Prof. E. Tomomatsu, Mr. N. Yasuma and others attended that Meeting representing the religions of Japan. At that conference it was agreed to organize World Conference for InInternational Peace through Religion (formally called Universal Religious Peace Conference) of which Baron Sakatani is one of the six presidents, and to form an Executive Committee for the purpose of making preparations for

the World Conference. It set up a number of Committee of which Prof. T. Tomoeda and Prof. E. Tomomatsu are members. Thus the Executive Committee came to carry on the work of the said Conference and the Church Peace Union dropped from view. The Executive Committee had its meeting in Paris in 1928, and then in Frankfort in 1929 and again in Berne in 1930. Here Washington was selected as the place for a World Conference for International Peace through Religion in November, 1932. The fifth Executive Committee Meeting was held in Geneva in August of this year. Rev. Mr. K. Kodaira attended this meeting representing the Japan National Committee of the World Conference for International Peace through Religion.



## The Japan National Committee

CONSIDERING that Japan should not be outdone by other countries in this line of work, directors of the Japan Religious Association, the Kiitsu Kyokai (Concordia Society) and other religionists formed the Japan National Committee of the World Conference for International Peace through Religion in April 1930. It consists of 58 men and women chosen from various religions in Japan: Christianity, Buddhism, Shintoism and Confucianism. The first general meeting was held in June at the Japan Industrial Club, Tokyo, and the Executive Committee of nine membership was set up at that meeting including Baron Sakatani president.

The first Executive Committee meeting was held at the end of June, at which they adopted the following twelve items for investigation and study:

1. Shinto doctrines concerning Peace and the Shinto contribution to the peace movement.
2. Buddhist doctrines concerning Peace and the Buddhist contribution to the peace movement.
3. Christian doctrine concerning Peace and the Christian contribution to the peace movement.
4. Confucian doctrine concerning Peace and the Confucian contribution to the peace movement.
5. The history of co-operation among religions in modern Japan.
6. The present condition of education regarding the cultivation of international peace.

7. The aims and programme to establish an institute for the reconciliation of the Thought life of the East and the West.
8. The status of the work of translation into Japanese and also from Japanese into foreign languages of the scriptures and literatures of the religions of the world.
9. Facts concerning the sympathy shown Japan by foreign countries at the time of the great Earthquake disaster in 1923.
10. Currents of the anti-pacifist thought movement in Japan.
11. Investigation into the causes of War.
12. Means and ways to prevent and, if possible, extirpate war.

**Regulations of the Japan National Committee of the  
World Conference for International  
Peace through Religion**

- Art. 1. The name of this Committee shall be "The Japan National Committee of the World Conference for International Peace through Religion."
- Art. 2. The object of this Committee shall be to cause religious men and religious bodies of Japan to participate in, and strive to attain the object of, the World Conference for International Peace through Religion to be held in 1931.
- Art. 3. The members of this Committee shall consist of those who will be requested by the President of this Committee to become members.
- Art. 4. The Committee shall have a President and an Executive Committee of eight members. The President shall be elected at the general meeting, and the Executive Committee shall be nominated by the President.



Art. 5. This Committee shall undertake the following in order to attain its object:

- (a) Keep in touch with the World Executive Committee of the World Conference for International Peace through Religion.
- (b) Propagate the object of the said Conference among religious men and religious bodies in Japan.
- (c) Recommend persons to attend the said conference.
- (d) Present essays or to propose opinions to the said World Executive Committee.
- (e) Other business deemed appropriate.

Art. 6. The President may call a general meeting and meetings of the Executive Committee if necessary, for purposes of consultation.

Art. 7. The expenses of this Committee shall be made dependent upon donation from volunteers.

### **Members of the Executive Committee**

The number of members of the Executive Committee was later increased to twenty four. The members of the present Executive Committee are:

Baron Sakatani: President.

Dr. M. Anesaki	Mr. T. Tagawa	Mr. N. Imaoka
Dr. M. Honaga	Mr. I. Kanzaki	Prof. K. Nakagiri
Mr. H. Nagao	Dr. S. Tachibana	Mr. S. Okuyama
Dr. K. Watanabe	Dr. T. Uno	Prof. T. Tomoeda
Rev. S. Noguchi	Prof. E. Tomomatsu	Dr. K. Yabuki
Dr. S. Yamada	Rev. A. Ebisawa	Dr. W. Axling
Rev. K. Kodaira	Mr. K. Asano	Count Y. Futara
Dr. M. Yamakawa	Rev. B. Sagumo	

### **Proposal to hold a Natinal Conference**

At the general meeting held in November 1930. Rev. N. Imaoka, a member of the Executive Committee made a proposal to hold a National Religious Conference for International Peace. This was unanimously adopted. The Executive Committee met in February 1931, and after due consideration resolved to hold a National Conference on May 18-20, 1931.

After several meetings of the Executive Committee and sub-committee, the Programme was made, and eveything was prepared through the permanent secretariat.



# Japan National Conference for International Peace through Religion

**T**HE Japan National Conference for International Peace through Religion consisting of 345 men and women chosen from the various religions in the Empire, Shinto, Buddhism and Christianity, was held in May 1931, at the Japan Youth Building at Yotsuya, Tokyo.

The Conference opened on the 18th, the International Good-Will-Day, and continued for three days.

The programme of the Conference was as follows:

**The first day** (Monday, May 18th from 1.30 p.m.)

## **I. Organization of the Conference.**

Chairman: Prof. T. Tomoeda.

The session for the organization of the Conference was held at 1.30 p.m. with Prof. Tomoeda in the chair. Roll call. As the choice of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen was left entirely to the discretion of the presiding officer, Prof. Tomoeda recommended Rev. Ryugaku Yuzawa, Lord Abbot of Shingon Buzan Sect, as the Chairman, and Rev. Kajinosuke Ibuka, D.D. President-Emeritus of Meiji Gakuin and Rev. Issaku Kanzaki, Head Priest of Shinto respectively as Vice-Chairmen, and was unanimously accepted.

## **II. Opening Ceremony.**

Chairman Rev. Ryugaku Yuzawa.

National Anthem

Opening Address (Chairman)

Congratulatory Address: Baron Wakatsuki, Prime Minister.

      "              " : Baron Shidehara, Minister of  
                          Foreign Affairs.

      "              " : Mr. Tanaka, Minister of Education.

      "              " : Rev. Sato, Shinto Association.

      "              " : Rev. Sagumo, Japan Buddhist  
                          Union.

      "              " : Dr. Chiba, The National Christian  
                          Council of Japan.

      "              " : Mr. Okuyama, League of Nations  
                          Association of Japan.

A poem known as a song of peace composed by the Late Emperor Meiji, was sung by a chorus of girls, students of Shukutoku Higher School for Girls, conducted by Mr. Ryutaro Hirota, famous composer and conductor in Japan.

### III. Lectures.

Shinto Teaching Regarding Peace: By Rev. Issaku Kanzaki,  
Shinto.

Buddhist Teaching Regarding Peace: By Dr. Kaikyoku  
Watanabe, Buddhist.

Christian Teaching Regarding Peace: By Bishop Yonetaro  
Matsui, Christian.

Confucian Teaching Regarding Peace: By Dr. Tetsujiro  
Inoue.

### IV. Public Lectures (at the Asahi Auditorium)

A public meeting was held in the evening presided over by Rev. S. Noguchi of the Congregational Church, and impressive speeches were made on the subject of world Peace.



Nationality and Universality of Shinto; Dr. Genchi Kato, Prof.  
of the Imperial University.

Realization of Peace; Dr. Danjo Ebina, ex-president of the  
Doshisha University.

Peace, the Most Precious; Dr. Benkyo Shiio, Dean of the  
Taisho University.

**The Second Day** (Tuesday May 19th)

**Sectional Meetings** (From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

The Conference was divided into three sections, and each section was presided over by a person prominent in national life. At the sessions of these sections, lectures were delivered, reports regarding investigations were read and opportunity was given for free discussion.

Section **A.** (Religion, Ethics, Humanitarianism, and Philanthropy).

Chairman: Dr. Keiki Yabuki.

Secretaries: Mr. Shunshi Takagaya.

Mr. Teruji Ishitsu.

Mr. Kenji Sugiyama.

## **I. Lectures and Reports.**

- a) International Peace and Shinto; Dr. Katsuhiko Kakehi.
- b) International Peace and Buddhism; Dr. Shundo Tachibana.
- c) International Peace and Christian Activities; Mr. Akira Ebisawa.
- d) Study of Japanese Buddhism by Occidentals; Mr. Entai Tomomatsu.
- e) Study of Japanese Shinto by Occidentals: Dr. Mosuke Honaga.

- g) International Peace and Mohamedanism; Rev. M-G, G. Kurbangali.
- g) International Peace and Bahaism; Miss Agnes Alexander.

## II. Discussion:

- a) Regarding a Proposal to send greetings to Religious bodies throughout the world.
- b) Regarding a Proposal to fix a day to be known as International Peace Day.
- c) Regarding a Statement relating to Peace.
- d) Regarding Means and ways to realize International Peace through the Co-operation of religions. Proposed by Dr. Riichiro Hoashi.
- e) What should be the practical means to promote International Peace? Proposed by Mr. Keigan Ohmura and Mr. Taigo Furukawa.
- f) Regarding a Proposal to make a world league of religions proposed by Rev. Imaoka and Rev. Miyasaki.
- g) Regarding a Proposal to remove all racial discrimination. Proposed by Rev. Ichino Shibata and Rev. Sonyu Senke.

The debate regarding the question of war waxed warm, and some of them opposed to the use of the phrase, "war is a crime in principle" in the draft of the Statement relating to Peace. They offered however no solution to this question on the ground of insufficient time.

### Section B. (General Culture).

Chairman: Prof. Takahiko Tomoeda.

Secretaries: Mr. Yoshiro Horikoshi.



Mr. Michio Hata.  
Mr. Akira Aihara.

## **I. Lectures and Reports.**

- a) International Education; Prof. Count H. Hayashi.
- b) International Peace and Women; Miss Michi Kawai.
- c) International Peace and the Junior Red Cross; Dr. Enji Inoue.
- d) International Peace and the Arts; Mr. Yoshimaru Toki.
- e) International Peace and Children; Viscount Shodo Mishima.
- f) Exchange of Culture between the East and the West; Dr. Gundert.
- g) Exchange of Culture; Prof. Takahiko Tomoeda.
- h) International Peace and the Contribution of Science; Dr. Tatsuo Tanaka.

## **II. Discussion.**

- a) Regarding Ways of Cultural Co-operation.
- b) Regarding a Proposal to send greetings to religious bodies throughout the world.
- c) Regarding Ways for promoting and fostering the International mind.

In this Section four resolutions were adopted.

## **Section C. (Practical Problems).**

Chairman: Mr. Daikichiro Tagawa M.P.  
Secretaries: Mr. Isao Inomata.  
Mr. Norikatsu Yasuma.  
Mr. Masashi Sakurai.

## **I. Lectures and Reports.**

- a) League of Nations; Dr. Saburo Yamada.
- b) International Peace and Diplomacy; Dr. Hikomatsu Kamikawa.
- c) International Peace and Economic Problems; Dr. Teijiro Ueda.
- d) International Peace and Labour Question; Dr. Junshiro Asari.
- e) International Peace and the Reduction of Armament; Mr. Daikichiro Tagawa.

## **II. Discussions.**

- a) Regarding a Statement relating to Peace.
- b) Regarding a Proposal to send greetings to religious bodies throughout the world.
- c) Regarding the problem of Disarmament.
- d) Regarding the Pacific settlement of International disputes.

In this section four resolutions were adopted unanimously, and the proceedings were closed at 5.30 p.m. with closing remarks by Mr. Tagawa, Chairman.

### **Dinner Party.**

In the evening from 6.30 following the sectional meetings a dinner party was given at the Japan Youth Building. This was presided over by Prof. I. Shibata. Prof. Shibata made an opening address of a humorous nature. He was followed by representatives of the various religions. Mr. Nishiyama, chief of the Bureau of Religions in the Department of Education, expressed his views regarding the Japan National Conference for International Peace through Religion and greatly encouraged the religionists present.



### **The Third Day** (Wednesday May 20).

#### **General Meeting** (from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.).

A General Meeting of all the sections was held on the third day of the Conference. It opened at 9 a.m. with Dr. Ibuka, vice-Chairman of the Conference, in the Chair.

Dr. Yabuki made a report of the work of Section A. Prof. Tomoeda reported for Section B. and Mr. Tagawa for Section C. As regards the statement relating to peace committee of fifteen was appointed for the purpose of bringing in a unified draft. Twelve resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Much to the pleasure and appreciation of all members of the Conference, the Imperial Household Office granted the members and their families an opportunity to hear and see Court Music and Dancing by Court Musicians at the Japan Youth Building on the afternoon of the 20th.

The members of the Conference were also invited to a tea party given by Mr. Tanaka, Minister of Education, at the same building from 3 p.m. that afternoon. At this meeting Mr. Tanaka spoke of the necessity of co-operation on the part of religions in the interests of International Peace, and encouraged the members, by promising to give them every possible help in this matter.

#### **Resolutions.**

The following resolutions were submitted and passed by the respective sections and later adopted at the general meeting held on the third day of the Conference.

### **I. STATEMENT RELATING TO PEACE.**

Looking back upon the history of humankind we see the fact that the ideal of international peace has been on the way to realization. The breaking out of the great world war has been regarded

as an event which prevented its realization, but it was quite on the contrary in reality. The great world war has given a chance to organize the League of Nations and it was followed by the conclusion of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War. Every country has now come to recognize the principle of disapproving war. This, indeed, is a great stride on the way towards the realization of the ideal of international peace. The League of Nations and the Treaty for the Renunciation of War should not be matters to be left in the hands of politicians and diplomats only.

In other words, we recognize deep at the bottom of them the great and profound religious spirit working actively. In addition, if, taking advantage of this opportunity, all religionists in the world co-operate and do their utmost, then our ideal of a warless world will not only exist in our religious faith, but also it will become a matter of practical international affairs. Therefore we here appeal to public opinion at home and abroad, proclaiming our belief and decision :—

- (1) The conference declares that we, religionists, should assume responsibility for the frequent occurrence of war.
- (2) The conference declares that all religions can and ought to co-operate to bring about international peace, admitting the unique characteristics of each religion.
- (3) It is our conviction that the moral law should govern international relations as well as personal relations.
- (4) The conference declares also that true patriotism is at one with true internationalism.
- (5) The conference declares that true peace should be in accordance with justice and goodwill.
- (6) The conference proclaims that all kinds of international dispute should be settled by peaceful methods.

- (7) The conference hopes for the total removal of all racial and religious discrimination.
- (8) The conference declares that religionists should take the leadership of the League of Nations and the Treaty for Renunciation of War to facilitate their ends.

## II. RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY.

The conference proposes to the World Conference for International Peace through Religion that a day be fixed as International Peace Day.

## III. RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE MEANS AND WAYS OF REMOVING ALL RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

The conference proposes to the World Conference for International Peace through Religion that resolutions be adopted relating to the removal of all racial discrimination.

## IV. RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RELIGIOUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

Recognizing the necessity of investigating the conditions of every religion with reference to promoting international co-operation and the welfare of mankind, the conference hopes for the establishment of a religious research institute connected with the League of Nations.



V. RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF AN INSTITUTE TO INVESTIGATE THE  
CONDITION OF EDUCATION.

The conference urges the establishment of an institute connected with the League of Nations for investigating educational conditions in all countries, especially their national text books, in order to remove all materials which seem to be open to misapprehension and to cause ill will and in order to insert appropriate materials to foster the sense of moral internationalism.

VI. RESOLUTION RELATING TO EXCHANGE  
OF CULTURE.

The conference hopes for the extension of the work of the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations, and also hopes for the translation of all kinds of literature leading to an understanding of the characteristic phases of culture of each country and of all kinds of literature leading to the promotion of international welfare.

VII. RESOLUTION RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE AND LABOUR PROBLEMS.

Considering that to resort to unreasonably inferior labor conditions as a means of obtaining an advantageous position in international trade competition will cause social unrest at home and abroad and will creat enmity and antagonism between nations, and considering that the work of the International Labour Organisation, which has as its aim the securing of the collaboration of Various nations in the matter of maintaining and improving labour conditions, contributes greatly in preventing this social unrest and international enmity and antagonism.

This Conference recommends that those governments which are already members of the International Labour Organisation shall in future strive more earnestly for the ratification and enforcement of Draft Labour Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the General Conference of that Organisation, and that those governments which are not yet members of the Organisation shall promptly join it and co-operate in this common international task.

#### VIII. RESOLUTION RELATING TO DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS.

It is most gratifying to realize that in February 1932 there will be held the General Conference for Reduction and Limitation of Armaments. We recognize that the event will mark a great step forward in the progress of world peace and we earnestly pray that the nations concerned and their representatives will make every possible effort for the success of the conference.

We are all the more gratified that the World Conference for International Peace through Religion is scheduled to be held in November of the same year. We believe that the reduction of armament is essentially a spiritual matter and the physical reduction of arms is of secondary importance to this. Without the spiritual reduction of arms there can be no physical reduction. At this point we realize the greatness of our responsibility and anticipate results even greater than those which will be achieved by the Disarmament Conference.

We can not but recognize the fact that we were guilty of inaction and negligence at the time of the world war and when there was disturbance in thought and moral deterioration in the past. We therefore declare to the people at home and abroad that we strongly censure ourselves for what we have neglected in the past and at



the same time we purpose to make a supreme effort with all sincerity of heart to contribute our share to the accomplishment of national and international reform.

#### IX. RESOLUTION URGING THE PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES.

As it behooves Japan, particularly in consideration of her position as a member of the Council of the League of Nations and in the spirit of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War to demonstrate to the people at home and abroad her zeal for the realization of world peace by adopting various plans for the peaceful settlement of international disputes, particularly as it is most necessary to ensure the success of the General Conference for Reduction and Limitation of Armament which is scheduled to be held in February next year under the auspices of the League of Nations, be it resolved that:

The conference desires that the Japanese Government take up promptly the following matters:

1. The acceptance of compulsory jurisdiction under the Permanent Court of International Justice.
2. Participation in the General Act for the Pacific Settlements of International Disputes adopted by the League of Nations.
3. Conclusion of bilateral treaties for the pacific settlement of disputes with as many friendly nations as possible.

#### X. RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE FOR STUDYING THE MEANS AND WAYS FOR PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE THROUGH CO-OPERATION OF ALL RELIGIONS.

The conference makes a request for the establishment of an



institute for studying the means and ways of promoting international peace.

The content and form of the institute should be entrusted to the directrate of the Japan National Committee of the World Conference through Religion and the eight committee men elected at the National Conference.

XI. RESOLUTION RELATING TO START A PERMANENT RELIGIOUS PEACE MOVEMENT; TO MAKE A WORLD LEAGUE OF RELIGIONS AND TO PLEDGE JAPAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THAT KIND OF A MOVEMENT.

These should be studied in the institute which will be established in accordance with the resoluton X.

XII. RESOLUTION RELATING TO SEND GREETINGS TO RELIGIOUS BODIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

The conference decides to send greetings to Religious bories throughout the world.

